1989-90 The switching capacity lines added 21813.
—Net Telephone connections provided 22558.
—Stations brought under NSD/ISD network 15.

1990-91 The switching capacity lines added 35417.
—Net telephone connections provided 28819.
—Stations brought under NSD/ISD network 25.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Plans for the year 1991-92:—
—Switching capacity lines to be added 77403.
—Net telephone connections to be provided 40445.
—Stations to be provided with STD facility 40.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (Bihar)

4027. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the quantum of assistance sought and given under the 'Establishment and Development of Agricultural Universities' to Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, The details of funds asked for and amount released to Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Bihar during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Demand	Amount released
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1988-89	Nil	14.105
1989-90	Nil	32.00
1990-91	Nil	35.00

Plantation of Oil Palm Trees

4028. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee had identified certain areas in the country for plantation of Oil Palm trees in 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage plantation of Oil Palm trees at Konkan region; and

(d) the schemes formulated for plantation of high yielding Oil Palm trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee identified 5.75 lakh ha. in nine States suitable for oil palm cultivation. The details are as follows:

State	Area (Lakh Ha.)
Andhra Pradesh	2.50
Assam	0.10
Karnataka	2.50
Kerala	0.05
Maharashtra	0.10
Orissa	0.10
Tamil Nadu	0.25
Tripura	0.05
West Bengal	0.10
Total	5.75

(c) and (d) The Government of India jointly with Government of Maharashtra has launched the oil palm demonstration project in the Konkan region (Sindhudurg district) of Maharashtra to demonstrate the feasibility of oil palm cultivation under irrigated conditions over an area of about 1000 ha. Oil palm nurseries have been established with elite, high yielding hybrid seeds both from imported and indigenous sources. The total field planted area is about 700 ha. so far and the remaining area is being field planted during this monsoon.

[*English*]

Ongoing Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan

4029. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURES be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of the ongoing irrigation projects in Rajasthan; and

(b) the present position of those projects and the time by which those are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A statement regarding major/medium ongoing irrigation projects of Rajasthan is attached.